

# Agritourism COVID-19 Requirements

## Summary of February 1, 2021 changes:

- New Phase 1 and Phase 2 requirements detailed
- Safety and health requirements updated at end of the document

## Included Here:

- For purposes of this guidance, agritourism is defined as a form of commercial enterprise that links agricultural production and/or processing with tourism in order to attract visitors onto a farm, ranch, or other agricultural business for the purposes of entertaining and/or educating the visitors and generating income for the farm, ranch, or business owner. Examples of agritourism include, but are not limited to Christmas tree farms, u-pick berry farms, corn mazes and pumpkin patches.

## Not included here:

- Agricultural events, such as includes livestock and horse exhibitions/shows/sales/auctions, companion animal (dog, cats, rabbits, etc.) shows, or any substantially similar event.

Agritourism businesses are permitted to operate, provided all requirements in this document are met. Each business must adopt a written procedure for operations at least as protective as the specific requirements outlined below and complies with all employee safety and health requirements.

Agritourism businesses must ensure strict adherence to all measures established by the Governor's guidance, the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I), [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention: General Requirements](#), and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace> (DOH).

## For Phase 1 and Phase 2:

### General Requirements

1. Inform customers they are required to:
  - o Stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
  - o Use cloth face coverings when visiting.
  - o Practice proper physical distancing.
2. Whenever possible, operations should be held outdoors or in outdoor covered areas with optimal ventilation (examples of this are covered areas with no more than two walls). Outdoor operations must ensure six feet of physical distance between customers (except between members of the same household). This may necessitate requiring customers to make reservations in advance or sign up for a specific time slot when they arrive.
3. Indoor operations are limited to retail and food service activities.
4. Retail and food service activities are required to follow [Department of Health's COVID-19 Guidelines for Farmers Markets](#) (regardless if held indoors or outdoors).
5. Payment Handling
  - o When possible, allow mobile, credit card, or other cash-free payment options.
  - o Staff will disinfect check-out counters and payment touchpads at least every hour.
  - o Provide handwashing or hand sanitizer for employees handling payment.

6. Use timed ticketing or on-line/phone reservations for any activity, when possible.
7. Provide sufficient hand sanitizing stations for customers.
8. Post signs at any wait lines, requiring six feet of physical distance and mark appropriately. Have staff stationed to monitor.
9. Activities such as indoor haunted houses/mazes, high-touch games/activities that cannot be sanitized between each user, inflatable jumping equipment, and animal petting areas are not permitted.

#### U-Pick and Tree Farm Requirements

1. Ensure proper physical distancing of a minimum of six feet, one-way traffic in the fields, as well as appropriate signage to ensure washing of fruits/vegetables before consumption & use.
2. Upon entrance & exit to the designated U-Pick/tree area, encourage visitors to wash/sanitize their hands.
3. Any waiting areas will be set up for six feet physical distancing, with appropriate signage and spacing markers.
4. Transportation to fields, must follow requirements below for hay/wagon/train rides.
5. Shared equipment, such as wheelbarrows and saws, must be sanitized between uses.

#### Hay/Wagon/Train Ride Requirements

1. Consider the space provided for each customer when determining the maximum number of people allowed onboard. Ensure there is six feet of physical distance between each household group. If physical distancing is not possible, a physical barrier will be utilized.
2. Use a "load back to front" and unload "front to back" to promote one-way pattern and physical distancing.
3. For trains, cars should be limited to members of the same household. Skip a car between households.
4. High touch areas, such as handrails, safety rails and other common surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip.
5. Create adequate space for physical distancing during tour check-ins. Use visual markers for reference.
6. Have hand sanitizer available for staff and customers.

#### Outdoor Corn Maze/Haunted House Requirements

1. The maze/haunted house should be designed as a no-touch outdoor activity, that is a one-way path. High-touch props and decorations should not be used.
2. Assign an employee to manage entrance, allowing for timed entry and appropriate physical distancing between groups.
3. Groups will be limited to a single household, and no more than five individuals from separate households.
4. Provide a hand-washing station or alternative hand sanitizing method at entrance and exit, and post signs to encourage customers to utilize before and after.
5. Staff members who are part of the haunt/maze will ensure six feet or more is always kept between groups.
6. A clear plastic barrier will be between and any actors and customers in the haunt/maze.

7. Staff shall not be allowed to change costumes/characters/masks in-show, ensuring less cross contamination. Nightly cleaning and disinfecting of masks, face shields, goggles and costumes, etc.
8. Common surfaces should be regularly sanitized.

#### Playground/Farm Equipment and Activities Requirements

1. Remove or rearrange equipment to allow for social distancing.
2. Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the space.
3. Install signage to discourage group congregation. People from the same household can be together, but 6 feet of physical distance should be maintained for people from different households.
4. Playground and activity capacity should be reduced to 50%.
5. Where possible, provide for one-way traffic with signage designating entrance, exit, and reinforcing one-way direction of traffic.
6. Regularly sanitize frequently touched surfaces. In particular, sanitize equipment/materials between customer use when possible.

#### Animal Viewing Requirements

1. Animal viewing exhibits will be held outdoors or in outdoor covered areas with optimal ventilation.
2. Ensure six feet of physical distancing and one-way traffic.
3. Regularly sanitize handrails, gates, and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
4. Install signage to discourage group congregation, or to limit numbers of people in a certain area. Customers will be reminded to be mindful of physical distancing around exhibits.
5. Request visitors to leave the area immediately after they are done to eliminate congestion/gathering.

#### Private Fire Pits/Bonfires Requirements

1. Parties limited to household members plus no more than five individuals from separate households – provided area can safely accommodate.
2. Sanitize frequently touched areas between groups.

#### **Employee Safety and Health**

An agritourism employer, during any phase has a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices as outlined in Governor Inslee's "Safe Start – Stay Healthy" Proclamation 20-25 and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace>. All events are required to post signage at the entrance to the event requiring participants to use cloth face coverings when inside the event.